

# NATURAL SETTING

**The Charleston Gazette, Tu**

## **Fish of Watoga Lake Swim to Greenbrier**

### **State Parks Supervisor Plans to Rebuild Collapsed Dam**

An earthen dam, at Watoga state park, which collapsed and drained a six-acre lake will be rebuilt, the conservation department said yesterday.

About 15,000 cubic yards of earth were washed out and most of the fish in the lake were carried into the Greenbrier river. Linn Wilson, parks supervisor, said there was no other damage to state property. Watoga park is in Pocahontas county near Marlinton.

On last Friday night WCKY, a popular radio station, of Cincinnati, gave a fifteen minute broadcast, devoted to Pocahontas County, sponsored by the Pocahontas Times. Here is the script submitted and mostly used.

I am appreciative of the opportunity to put West Virginia in general in the right light before the world by presenting in particular my own delectable part, Pocahontas County in the Greenbrier Valley. You know, West Virginia has suffered not a little through adverse advertising. Why our mountain people—gentle and forbearing as the sheep upon our thousands of hills—are pictured as fretful, temperish and quick on the trigger. The fact is, that no where in all the world is higher regard placed upon the sanctity of human life than among us. Naturally, human nature and original sin being what they are, it occasionally happens there arises in our midst an anti-social, demon possessed individual who needs killing. Of a truth the highland man is not one to stand aside from the performance of a duty, even though it be personally distasteful.

Speaking of our mountain people, it has been said that what the lowlander considers shrewd business practice, is put down as plain rascality by us highlanders.

Some of you may have heard this old toast to West Virginia—"With the gas to light the world; with coal to heat the world; with oil to grease the world; with timber to put a high board fence around the world; and with brains to run the world." That old boy took in a bit of territory, about all there is, I will admit, but then a highlander usually feels expansive when he gets among the lowlanders.

Still speaking of our people, it has been said that they are like wild hogs in that they will eat each other, but let an outside force attack, the first appeal will bring the herd packing to his help.

Our County of Pocahontas—"lying on the bosom of the Alleghenies like a jewel in the hands of a queen" is known to some as one of the abodes of the Greenbrier Valley. However, the Greenbrier is merely one of the eight other rivers having their head springs in this mountain domain of a thousand square miles—the Greenbrier, Kanawha, Cheat, Tygart, Elk, Mingo, Cherry, Williams and Cranberry. These the head streams of the Potomac begin where Pocahontas borders off at the north; and the drainage to the Indian Ocean is from the long easterly boundary. This is the high country of eastern America, and it is one grand great mountainous land. A large town on Man's land, and we are—more exactly—down almost from the summit of Shenandoah.

By the terms of the treaty of Albany, in 1722, between Great Britain and the Six Nations, the lands on the Western Waters, that is the Mississippi Drainage, were retained by the Indians as their own. Indians venturing east of the Alleghenies would forfeit all their rights, to be sold as slaves in the West Indies. The white man who ventured on to the Western waters could be killed with impunity by the Indian owners. Beginning two hundred years back, the white people did come and they stayed, though outlawed by King and Council, Colonial Governor and General Assembly, and so actively opposed by the original inhabitants, the region has the bloodiest Indian history of any portion of America. There is a valley saying about the farms, "that they were taken from the forest with an axe and held against all comers with a rifle." Land titles could not be perfected until the formation of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1776, and to this day the best land title in West Virginia is ten years uninterrupted possession. The late Colonel Theodore Roosevelt wrote interestingly and comprehensively of the Western Waters Movement in his Wandering of the West books.

The Warrior's Road—the war path of J. Fenimore Cooper's, Leather Stocking Tales, from Seneca Lake, New York, to the Red Hills of North Georgia—traverses the Greenbrier Valley from end to end. U. S. Route 219 is called the Seneca Trail. The town of Marlinton, county seat of the County of Pocahontas, is the first English speaking settlement in the Mississippi Valley. General Andrew Lewis in 1761, when he came to make the first land survey on the Western waters, found Jacob Marlin and Stephen Sewell here. One of the calls of his survey is a line passing over the Ewing house. The stump of the first corner tree on all the Great Mississippi Valley is still preserved.

The then Colonel was surveying out grants totalling one hundred thousand acres for the Greenbrier Land Company. This Company had fooled the King and his Council into believing the waters of the Greenbrier drained toward the Atlantic instead of the Gulf of Mexico. Maybe you think the Indians through the Long House at Albany did not get busy to have the Charter of the Greenbrier Company annulled in a few years.

Inasmuch as more than two-thirds of the area of Pocahontas County is now held in public ownership in the Monongahela National Forest, I feel no hesitancy in making report to the general public on their communal holdings in these parts. The matter of public hunting ground and fire setting water has come to the front in the past few years with alluring and alluring. This popular white line of the all important and too long

neglected necessity of saving trees and water and soil sure put the push behind the great Conservation movement as we now know and glory in. The right to hunt is an American tradition ranking with freedom of speech and assembly, the right to bear arms and the right of petition. Unrestrained exercise of this tradi-

tional right to hunt the public owned game killed the goose which laid the golden egg so that two generations of Americans have had poor hunting. To your Monongahela National Forest the game is coming back apace, but do not get the idea it is an easy, lazy man's task to hunt the wild deer of our endless mountains, though he make his bed within a mile of our Court House.

Speaking about Conservation of our natural resources of timber, soil and water, I heard over the air a scientific gentleman down Washington way, remark in effect the central Government, for the good of all the people had the right to say to the man of West Virginia how he should till or refrain from tilling his hillside acres. The sentiment did not go down at all with me. I was reared in the good old free school which taught a man held dominion over his own land, to bid a King to stay off if he so desire, and that he owned down to where he would meet Cirinamen coming this way, and from here to the moon. Would I stand for any bureaucrat to tell me how I should manage old Jerico farm; from whose sacred soil men had gone at call of country to Indian, Revolutionary and Confederate wars? Sober second thought brought me to see clearly I had no right to so till my hillside acres as to impoverish a soil upon which I hold merely a life tenure at best; to put in condition where a dashing rain would mud up the waters of Price Run, and thicken the drinking water of those who depend upon the rivers for this necessity of life; to add to the distress in times of drouth and flood of our neighbors in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys.

Having an elevation above sea level ranging from two thousand to forty-eight hundred feet, Pocahontas County has an ideal summer climate. The tree growth of the higher elevations is what the foresters call the Northern hardwood mixture, such as hard maple, ash, cherry, beech and birch, with the black spruce on the higher mountains. On the lower grounds are the oaks and pines. As for the rest of the botany, it is most interesting for here we have an overlap of the Carolinian, Virginian and Canadian species of plants. Those words bring up a sour recollection. A stranger came into the office for to tanna of this region I started off on a high and airy flight about Carolinian meaning southern, Virginian

meaning middle and Canadian mean-  
ing northern when applied to plants  
and animals. I was thoroughly en-  
joying the clear sailing until the gen-  
tleman began to interpose some re-  
marks of his own. Man, I said, what  
do you know about botany anyhow?  
Only so much, he replied, as to en-  
able me to hold position with the  
Biological Survey the past thirty five  
years as a botanist. When he told  
me his name I recalled it as an out-  
standing one in the world of Science.  
With the little breath remaining in  
my deflated bladder, I told him about  
taking advantage of ignorant inno-  
cence. He said I had laid myself vul-  
nerable, and I acknowledged the corn.

Anyway, the Greenbrier Valley is  
the botanist's happy hunting ground,  
and the same may be said for the  
Geologist. The rock here is sedimen-  
tary and the ~~folded~~ mountains expose  
the foundations for miles up and  
down. A Geologist from the low  
lands once told me the great week  
end out door sport for a party of  
Scientists was to go into the fields in  
search of fossils. A score would go  
into a huddle over a stone to see  
whether the marks were fossils, gla-  
cial scars or merely harrow scratches.  
Here he saw steam shovels at work  
dumping wonderful fossil remains  
over the bank by the cubic yard day  
after day. Another of our local say-  
ings is that you cannot raise good peo-  
ple on poor ground. Ours is natural  
blue grass soil; our mountains grass  
to the top; it is an ideal land for cat-  
tle and sheep, as well as for people.  
As for sheep, the pesky varments put  
a crimp in this industry when the  
Conservation Commission put the  
black bear on the song bird list. As  
for the cattle, it has been said the  
end of the Greenbrier is a red steer  
calf on the butt of a hay stack, and  
that our women still talk horse.

As for our people I readily admit  
that the best people to be found any-  
where live in the Greenbrier Valley,  
and the farther upstream the better  
they get. A proper sense of modesty  
restrains me from explaining how  
close to the head springs is my own  
ancestral home.

The meaning of *Steward* is that,  
endowed with proper missionary spirit,  
we are willing to share the blessings  
of a good country, a good climate and  
a sturdy people. Anyway, whether  
you can see your way clear to cast  
your lot in with us in these defensible  
rolling mountains and be content to  
watch the world go by, why pay a  
visit to the vacation land of the Green-  
brier Valley, to see the County of  
Pocahontas. More than two thirds

of it is owned by all the people of  
these United States. What we have  
stand all our lives, you ought to be  
able to put up with and enjoy for a  
day or two.

Pocahontas Times  
- 8/22/40

WATERS, RIVERS, AND MOUNTAINS)

L A K E S

Q Name of lake or lakes in your county?

A Seneca Lake, in Seneca State Forest; Killbuck Lake in  
Wadoga State Park

Q Give the origin of name and meaning?

A Seneca: Seneca, Seneca; Killbuck, noted bloody  
Indian Chief

Q Is the lake a natural or an artificial one?

A Artificial

Q If an artificial lake, was it constructed for a power project?

A No

Q If so, give name of company operating power rights?

A To whom is power furnished?

Q What acreage does the lake cover, together with its depth?

A Seneca 6 acres; Killbuck 12 acres

Q What highways (State and Federal) are nearest the lake?

A US 219

Q Give a list of different kinds of sport and recreation facilities to be had?

A Fishing & boating & swimming

(GIVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

Best location in State for hunting  
fishing

RIVERS

Q Name of river or rivers running through your county?

A Greenbrier, Cheat, Elk, Tygart, & Falling. Millions  
Cherry, Gunby, Cranberry

Q Give origin and meaning of name?

A Cheat means 1. known 2nd. in of known.  
Scale from ancient name of France

Q Give point of entry in your county and point of exit?

A There are none here

Q What is the total length of the river in the State?

A ~~Greenbrier~~ Greenbrier 170 miles  
Elk 180

Q What percentage of total mileage flows through your county?

A Elk about 20 miles  
Greenbrier about 40%

Q Is power generated by the erection of dams, or are there power possibilities?

A no power generated, but good power  
whirls

Q If power is generated, give name of company operating power rights?

A

Q If river is navigable, give length?

A

Q Give sport facilities, such as boating, swimming and fishing?

A bass, trout & pike fishing (good)

(GIVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

The above rivers all head in Pocahontas County  
and do not run or cross through the county  
all head in the county

(LAKES, RIVERS, AND MOUNTAINS)

MOUNTAINS

Q Name of mountain or mountains in your county?

A Allegheny Mountains, Park Allegheny  
Mountains, Greenbrier Mountains & Cheat mt.

Q Meaning of name?

A Indian for big sign, Allegheny  
Cheat Mountain (Indian meaning: directing)

Q Give the location in your county? A.

all over

Q What highways (State and Federal) are nearest the mountain?

A

219

Q Give a description of the mountain, whether wooded or not, and point  
of highest elevation?

A Mostly wooded, range  
in elevation from 2100 to 4800 feet

Q If mountain is heavily timbered, what kind is found?

A Northern hardwood mixture  
with spruce & white pine

Q Is mountain a recreation center?

A

yes

Q If so, what?

A Hunting and fishing

(GIVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
OF WEST VIRGINIA

312 Smallridge Building

Charleston

February 15, 1939

N. ALDERSON  
ADMINISTRATOR

Clerk County Court  
Marlinton  
West Virginia

Dear Sir:

The Federal Writers' Project is compiling material on all the counties for a West Virginia Encyclopedia. For the present, we are interested in obtaining information from your county on lakes, rivers and mountains.

Enclosed are three lists of questions to which we would like to have you give brief but comprehensive answers at your convenience. If you do not have the data at hand, will you please turn the lists over to someone else who is familiar with these particular subjects?

We will be glad to hear from you and will appreciate whatever you may do for us.

Very truly yours,



Bruce Crawford  
State Director  
Federal Writers' Project

BC/cnp  
enc.



MARLIN OR "HUNTERVILLE" ANTICLINE

This material probably can be found in the West Virginia Geological Survey for Pocahontas County. I want to know what the Marlin Anticline is, what period it belongs to, what it is composed of, where it is, and on which side of the highway it is, if possible. <sup>which route? 43</sup>

There is no "Marlin" or "Hunterville" anticline - Have taken for granted you meant the largest which is Brown Mountain.

On page 272 - illustration

Cross section of Browns Mountain Anticline along the highway (State Route 43) following the Knapp Creek gorge between the Hunterville bridge, 0.8 miles southeast of Huntsville, and the Minnehaha Springs bridge, 0.5 miles northwest of Minnehaha Springs.

(Sketch attached)

The major anticlinas are described as follows:

Deer Park Anticline

Blackwater Anticline

Browns Mountain Anticline

Horton Anticline

Deer Park Anticline enters Pocahontas from Randolph 0.4 miles west of Mace - continues in a general S. W. direction for 11-1/4 miles.

Passing just west of Linwood - terminating on the eastern end of Red Lick Mountain.

The Blackwater Anticline has its origin in Mineral County - southwest to Maryland - roughly paralleling the west Virginia and Maryland Line to 1 mile southeast of Cormana - continues southward to Grant - Tucker County line across Tucker through Canaan Valley into Randolph entirely across Randolph to Pocahontas entering 2 miles Northeast of Wildell - continues southwest for 13 miles passing through Frank, and apparently dying out in Sandy Ridge.

Under the head of Browns Mountain anticline will be discussed the complex folded area or anticlinorium, that is so conspic-

icous along Knap Creek between Huntermville and Minnehaha Springs and that extends south westward along Brushy and Beaver Lick Mountains into Greenbrier County and to the north along Browns and Michael Mountains, through Green Bank and ending approximately one mile northeast of Bartow.

The Mountains which is the most conspicuous structural feature in Pocahontas County, has its source in a number of small folds between the southern ends of Blackwater Anticline and Job syncline near Bartow.

It continues southwestward roughly paralleling the State road to Green Bank where much evidence of squeezing can be seen, and from this locality the main axis connects with the top of Michael Mountain.

Along the state road east of Dunmore a series of folds is encountered with squeezing and mashing.

The Oriskany series 1/4 mile east of Dunmore is overturned with a 55° dip to the south east, while 3/4 of a mile farther east the Bosserville platy limestone has been squeezed almost to a point of flowage, one-half mile farther east from the latter point a low graceful, single arch of the White Medina constitutes the main axis of this folded area and marks the northern end of this series that is so prominently developed between Huntermville and Minnehaha Spring.

At the southern end of Michael Mountain the axis trends somewhat abruptly to the southwest and crosses the Brown Creek - Front road 1.3 miles east Thorny Creek School. From this point southward the major fold holds to

the western side of Browns Mountain, but in the gorge of Knapp creek its true nature as an anticlinorium becomes more apparent, there being another fold of equal magnitude just west of the Minnehaha Springs bridge.

The rocks exposed in this fold include those of the Chemung Series of the Upper Devonian down to the Red Medine Series of the basal Silurian.

Both the eastern and western flanks are composed of steep dips and occasionally over-turned somewhat beyond the vertical.

At Michael Mountain this anticline its greatest altitude bringing the White Medina quartzite to the surface along the crest of the ridge.

The same series is exposed in the arch 1.7 miles east of Dunmore and is also well exposed, with the underlying Red Medine, in the gorge of Knapp Creek between Hunterville and Minnehaha Springs. It is also the Princepel ridge rock in Beaver Lick Mountain.

Much of the area of this Anticline is composed of the Silurian limestones, but there are a number of the ridges composed of the Clinton quartzites.

The remaining ridge maker is the Oriskany Series that flanks this entire Anticline on either side of the ridge which also goes down to the Lower Devonian shale depressions that surround the mountains.

On Page 176 C Plate XXIX

Cave near base of Greenbrier River limestone at the head of Stevens Hole Run. The cave was the home of Steven Sewell for several years and is now a point of interest for tourists.

Old Brown Mt. Anticline

1 m. se of Huntsville

Tom 18



1 m. se

Bridge  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile  
SE Huntsville

Brown's Mountain Anticline

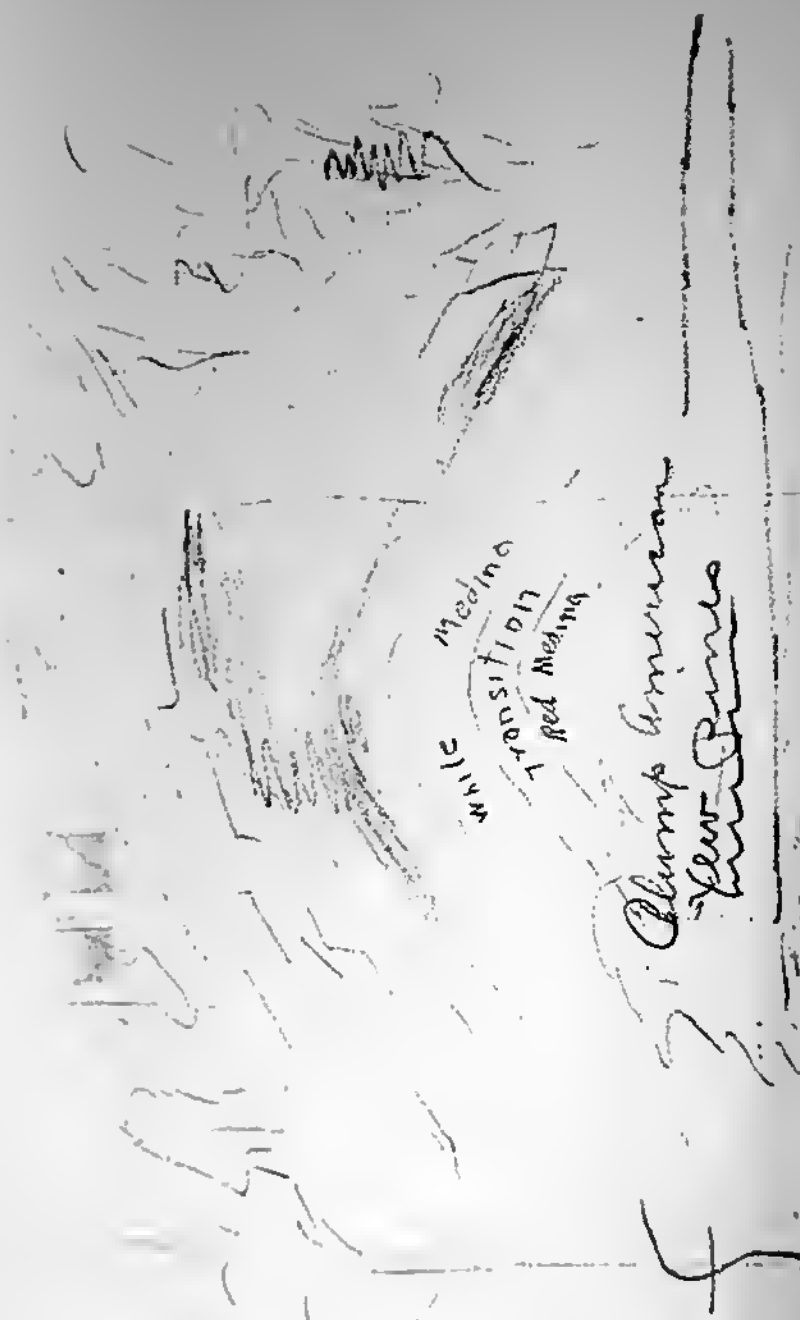
Possum Hollow

Buzzards Hollow

Barkley Run

Bridge Minnehaha Springs





Plump American  
New Prince

Beautiful arch in Red Medina 17000 feet  
 of Harpersville, beneath this arch are a few  
 of the remaining American New Prince in the country